

September 10, 2014

to: Public Lands Interim Committee

from: Liz A. Clark

Testimony opposed to federal lands takeover by the State of Idaho

The proposed plan for the State of Idaho to take over national public land is bad for Idaho and the nation. Proponents refer to this proposal as "disposal of Public land" and to do so would in fact be disposal and not, as they would have us believe, a transfer of managed land.

The State of Idaho is neither managementally or financially prepared to adequately manage this land, or to plan and execute firefighting plans. This will inevitably, and quickly, mean that privatization will follow. These lands should remain public, and they will not be under new state jurisdiction.

In addition, the state can't begin to shoulder the burden of inevitable litigation should the above scenario take place. There will be continuous environmental lawsuits that the state cannot afford on any level.

Further, Idaho is not prepared to manage timber on these lands, or environmental use. Both of these shortcomings will hasten the privatization that is the underlying motivation for these projects.

The proposed action is an unconstitutional takeover of public lands; lawsuits will be costly to taxpayers.

Thank you for your consideration.

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